

(c) whether any conclusion were arrived at in this seminar and whether they were communicated to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) Government have seen reports in the Press on a Seminar organised in Goa in mid-January, 1997, by the Centre for Policy Research, which is an autonomous body. Government have not been apprised of the conclusions of the Seminar.

[Translation]

#### Death/Disease Caused by Poverty

2277. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether poverty is an important factor for causing disease and death as per the World Health Organisation report;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps suggested by the World Health Organisation to prevent deaths occurring due to poverty; and

(d) the follow up measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (b) As per the World Health Report 1995 - 'Bridging the gaps', poverty affects every aspect of human life including health. To eradicate poverty, Government has initiated several measures like income generating schemes, food subsidies to the poor etc. besides all round socio-economic development programmes.

(c) The steps suggested by WHO to prevent deaths due to poverty inter-alia include efficient and optimum utilisation of available resources, better access to primary health care, increased investment in health sector and strengthening of national capabilities for emergency relief in the health sector.

(d) Several National disease control programmes are under implementation which are directed mainly to the poor people afflicted by diseases like Leprosy, T.B., Malaria, Blindness Iodine deficiency disorder etc. To augment the infrastructure and the outreach of programmes, external assistance have been availed from the World Bank and other External agencies. There has been increase in Plan allocations during the successive Plan periods.

[English]

#### Disciplinary Action Against Officers of K.V.S.

2278. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has recommended any disciplinary action against certain officers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Central Vigilance Commission has recommended disciplinary action against eight officers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for various acts of misconduct during 1996. The charges relate to irregularities in appointment of staff in all the cases. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has already initiated action as per rules prescribed for the purpose.

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Pace Maker

2279. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of persons die every year due to shortage of pace makers in the country;

(b) if so, whether Union Government propose to manufacture pace maker in the country itself in view of the high prices of imported pace maker, which a common man cannot afford, so that the pace maker can be made available in the country at a low price and thus the lives of thousands of persons can be saved;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no reported death due to shortage of pace makers in the country.

(b) and (c) The pace makers are already being manufactured in India. The Society for Bio-Medical Technology, in collaboration with Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad; Defence Research Development Organisation, Department of Sciences &